

Message Text

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20

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OES-03

ACDA-05 OMB-01 /063 W

----- 022430

R 030612Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7400

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 825

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MNUC, AS

SUBJ: NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP VISITS TO AUSTRALIA

REF: A) STATE 21823 B) CANBERRA 8624 C) AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
NOTE TO ASST. SEC. DEF. ISA, 23 OCT 75

1. EMBOFF MADE DEMARCHE CONTAINED REFTEL TO ROY REF-
NANDEZ, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DFA'S DEFENSE DIV-
ISION ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2. NOT SURPRISINGLY, FERNANDEZ
KNEW ALL THE POINTS SINCE HE AND OTHER SENIOR AUSTRALIAN
PUBLIC SERVANTS IN DFA AND DOD STRONGLY SUPPORT NPW VISITS
AND HAVE BEEN USING THE SAME ARGUMENTS FOR YEARS. FER-
NANDEZ REASSURED EMBOFF THAT ALL SENIOR MINISTERS, INCLUD-
ING PRIME MINISTER FRASER, FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK, AND
DEFENSE MINISTER KILLEN, STRONGLY SUPPORT NPW VISITS AND
AUSTRALIAN DOD IS PREPARING PAPERS WHICH WOULD REVERSE
PREVIOUS POSITIONS AND HOPEFULLY OBVIATE THE NECESSITY FOR
PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF NPW VISITS.

2. EMBASSY IS SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY STATEMENT IN REFTEL
A THAT THE TIME MAY NOW BE OPPORTUEN TO SEEK A POLITICAL
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DECISION FROM THE GOA WHICH WOULD ALLOW EARLY RESUMP-

TION OF NPW PORT ENTRY. THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS SENIOR MINISTERS HAVE REPEATEDLY AND PUBLICLY SUPPORTED NPW VISITS BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE DECEMBER 13 ELECTION. THE POLITICAL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE; THE BUREAUCRACY IS NOW MOVING AS FAST AS POSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT IT. OUR ONLY CONCERN IS THAT THE ENTHUSIASM WITH WHICH PRIME MINISTER FRASER AND HIS MINISTERS SUPPORT SUCH VISITS HAS AROUSED RENEWED OPPOSITION TO NPW VISITS FROM SEGMENTS OF THE ALP. DEFENSE MINISTER KILLEN'S STATEMENT THAT THE NEW AUSTRALIAN NAVY BASE AT COCKBURN SOUND IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA WOULD BE OPEN TO NPW VISITS SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE WAS PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE SINCE IT TIED OPPOSITION TO NPW VISITS TO AUSTRALIA WITH OPPOSITION TO THE EXPANSION OF THE U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

3. DFA IS CHECKING WITH THE AUSTRALIAN DOD TO SEE IF AN ANSWER TO REF C IS STILL REQUIRED.
PERCIVAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS, MILITARY VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CANBER00825
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760040-0055
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760289/aaaadace.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 21823, 76 CANBERRA 8624
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP VISITS TO AUSTRALIA
TAGS: MARR, MNUC, AS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006